



Marty Kelly
Goodhue County Sheriff

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TO: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Marty Kelly, Sheriff
Jonathan Huneke, Chief Deputy
Chad Steffen, Emergency Services Captain

DATE: March 25, 2025

RE: Request for Proclamation Recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week – April 13-19, 2025

Purpose:

I respectfully request the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached proclamation recognizing the week of April 13–19, 2025, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Goodhue County.

Background:

Public Safety Telecommunicators—often referred to as the “first, first responders”—play a vital role in emergency response efforts. They are the initial point of contact for individuals in crisis and provide critical communication support to law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel. Their work requires high levels of professionalism, empathy, and quick decision-making, often in high-stress environments.

Our dedicated team of Public Safety Telecommunicators in the Goodhue County Emergency Communications Center exemplify the Sheriff’s Office values of Integrity, Respect, Empathy, and Compassion in every interaction. Their behind-the-scenes contributions are essential to ensuring the safety and security of our communities.

Action Requested:

Please consider the formal adoption of the attached proclamation at your next regular County Board meeting. This recognition will serve to honor the invaluable service and dedication of our Public Safety Telecommunicators.

If approved, we will share the proclamation with staff and include it as part of our internal recognition efforts during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Thank you for your consideration.

OFFICE OF THE GOODHUE COUNTY SHERIFF

ADULT DETENTION
CENTER
651.267.2804

CIVIL DIVISION
651.267.2601

RECORDS DIVISION
651-267-2600

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
651.267.2640

EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS
651.385.3155

An Equal Opportunity Employer

What is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW)?

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) was first conceived in 1981 by Patty Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California as a way to recognize the unseen and often underappreciated work of public safety dispatchers. What began as a local recognition effort gradually gained momentum as agencies across the country saw the value in acknowledging the vital role dispatchers play in emergency response.

In 1991, Congress formally recognized the importance of this week. Through a proclamation introduced by Representative Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, Congress designated the second full week in April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, officially honoring these professionals on a national level.

Since then, NPSTW has become a widely celebrated event within the public safety community. It is embraced by law enforcement agencies, fire departments, EMS services, and emergency management organizations across the United States. The week is marked by appreciation events, awards, proclamations, and community outreach that highlight the essential work of Public Safety Telecommunicators—those who are often the calm voice in the chaos, guiding callers through emergencies and coordinating life-saving responses.

Today, NPSTW not only recognizes the skill and dedication of these professionals but also brings attention to the evolving nature of the field, including advancements in technology, increasing demands, and the critical need for ongoing support and training.

A PROCLAMATION

AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

April 13–19, 2025

WHEREAS, emergencies requiring police, fire, or emergency medical services can occur at any time; and

WHEREAS, the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our first responders is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who contact emergency communications centers; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services, providing a vital link between the community and emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators of Goodhue County have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their duties over the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office values of Integrity, Respect, Empathy, and Compassion are exemplified daily by our Public Safety Telecommunicators;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners declares the week of April 13 through April 19, 2025, as **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week** in Goodhue County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Goodhue County to be affixed this 1st day of April, 2025.

-Signatures of the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners-